

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 11, 13, 15 – 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 - 40 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 12, 14, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 are canceled by the present amendment, and claims 35 – 40 are newly added. Applicants are requesting reconsideration of the application.

In section 2 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 14 are rejected. Applicants are canceling claims 2 and 14, thus rendering moot the rejection thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 14 is respectfully solicited.

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6 – 6, 13, 14, 18 – 21, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,798,209 to Lavoie et al. (hereinafter "the Lavoie et al. patent"). Of this set of rejected claims, four are independent, namely claims 1, 13, 25 and 33. Applicants are clarifying aspects of claims 1, 13, 25 and 33 that are not disclosed by the Lavoie et al. patent.

Claim 1 provides for a method of testing an electrical switchgear system. The method includes, *inter alia*, (a) applying an analog signal to a first node in said electrical switchgear system, and (b) receiving data indicative of a response of said electrical switchgear system to said analog signal, wherein the data is received from a second node in said electrical switchgear system.

The Lavoie et al patent does not disclose applying a signal to a first node, and receiving data indicative of a response, wherein the data is received from a second node, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Lavoie patent does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 13, 25 and 33 each include recitals similar to that of claim 1, as described above. Accordingly, for reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, each of claims 13, 25 and 33 are also novel over the Lavoie et al. patent.

Claims 6 – 9 and 27 depend from claim 1; claims 18 – 21 and 29 depend from claim 13; claim 31 depends from claim 25; and claim 34 depends from claim 33. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 6 – 9, 18 – 21, 27, 29, 31 and 34 are also novel over the Lavoie et al. patent.

Claims 2 and 14 are canceled. As such, the rejection of claims 2 and 14 is rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 6 – 6, 13, 14, 18 – 21, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 – 34.

In section 6 of the Office Action, claims 3 – 5 and 15 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lavoie et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,479,315 to Schweitzer, III (hereinafter "the Schweitzer, III patent").

Claims 3 – 5 depend of claim 1, and claims 15 – 17 depend from claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that the Schweitzer, III patent does not make up for the deficiency of the Lavoie et al. patent as the Lavoie et al. patent relates to claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, Applicants further submit that claims 1 and 13, and claims 3 – 5 and 15 – 17, by virtue of their dependencies, are all patentable over the cited combination of the Lavoie et al. and Schweitzer, III patents.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 3 – 5 and 15 – 17.

In section 7 of the Office Action, claims 10, 11, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lavoie et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,168,261 to Weeks (hereinafter "the Weeks patent").

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1, and claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 13.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Weeks patent does not make up for the deficiency of the Lavoie et al. patent as the Lavoie et al. patent relates to claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, Applicants further submit that claims 1 and 13, and claims 10, 11, 22 and 23, by virtue of their dependencies, are all patentable over the cited combination of the Lavoie et al. and Weeks patents.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 10, 11, 22 and 23.

In section 8 of the Office Action, claims 12, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of the Lavoie, Weeks and Schweitzer, III patents. Each of claims 12, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 is now canceled, thus render moot the rejection of these claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 is respectfully solicited.

As mentioned above, Applicants are clarifying aspects of claims 1, 13, 25 and 33 that are not disclosed by the Lavoie et al. patent. Applicants are amending claims 5 – 8, 10, 11, 17 – 23, 27, 29, 31 and 34 for consistency with their respective underlying independent claims. Applicants are further amending claims 10 and 22 to include additional features that are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. None of the amendments is intended to narrow the meaning of any term of the claims, and as such, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the elements of all of the claims.

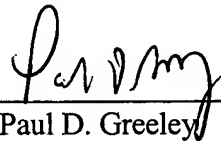
Applicants are adding claims 35 - 40 to even further provide the claim coverage that Applicants appear to deserve based on the prior art that was cited by the Examiner. A favorable consideration that also results in the allowance of claims 35 - 40 is earnestly solicited.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

9/21/06



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